



A bedded field in Capay Valley.

Award Amount

\$40,000

Watershed

Cache Creek Watershed

County

Yolo County

CALFED Region

Bay Region

Legislative Districts

US Congress: 2

State Assembly: 2

State Senate: 5

Purpose

Develop a Community Action Plan for the Esparto–Capay Valley area of the Cache Creek Watershed.

Project Goals

- Establish a shared vision for the future of the region and identify actions necessary to achieve defined goals.
- Create a collaboration of farmers, ranchers, rural residents, and tribal representatives.
- Research and produce a Capay Valley Atlas.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

This project is a true grassroots effort to develop a shared vision for the future of the Capay Valley and the middle reach of Cache Creek. The project is a model for other rural communities and provides great benefits to the local community and to the CALFED Program. The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan states that supporting the involvement of local citizens and interested parties would help to restore and maintain Cache Creek. The Watershed Program recognizes that the goals of watershed management can be achieved only if they are supported by those who are likely to influence changes in the watershed. Through implementing this project, Capay Valley Vision adds credibility and energy to effective watershed management and restoration efforts.

Project Overview

The Capay Valley is located in western Yolo County in the Cache Creek watershed. The rural area has been in agricultural use since the 1850s but is now facing increasing pressures from the Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay areas. New development in the town of Esparto, together with a rapidly developing Indian casino on tribal lands in the lower Capay Valley, is threatening to overwhelm the valley's rural character and agricultural economy. The increased development can have a significant impact on the natural resources of the Cache Creek Watershed, which is in some areas already degraded and in need of restoration.

This project develops an action plan for the rural communities of the Capay Valley. The plan's purpose is to establish a shared vision for the future of the region and to empower local residents to shape their future. The collaborative process involves farmers, ranchers, rural residents, farm workers, and tribal representatives of the Rumsey Rancheria. It is designed to achieve general agreement on a desired future for the Capay Valley and to foster civic engagement within the community. The Community Action Plan is helping to manage what many see as inevitable growth and development in a way that protects the rural values of the area and promotes the ecological health of the watershed within the context of environmental justice.

The project is designed in four phases. The first phase is the development of a Capay Valley Atlas. The Atlas includes local soil and water resources conditions, demographics, existing infrastructure and needs, and economic trends. The second phase entails a series of "Creating the Vision" workshops. The workshops are focused on developing consensus on a general vision statement. The next phase develops strategies to rank priorities for action, and subsequent accomplishment. Lastly, the fourth phase develops the Community Action Plan itself.



Tomato harvesting in progress.

Contact Information

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